

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 FCC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EIND, ETEL, SCUL, CA

SUBJ: BILL C-58: SENATE DEBATE

REF: OTTAWA 2686

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SENATE DEBATE ON BILL C-58 CONTINUES BUT WITH RISING OF PARLIAMENT IMMINENT AND MANEUVERING OF SENATE GOVERNMENT LEADER, IT APPEARS VOTE TO APPROVE BILL WITHOUT AMENDMENT MAY BE TAKEN THIS WEEK. END SUMMARY.

2. SENATE DEBATE OF C-58 RESUMED TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 6 WITH SENATOR ERNEST MANNING, FORMER ALBERTA SOCIAL CREDIT PREMIER, MAKING REASONED PLEA FOR AMENDING BILL. HE HAD TWO PRINCIPAL OBJECTIONS TO BILL: (A) PERMITTING GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH CANADIAN CONTENT BY FIAT -- HE FELT THAT IF A CORPORATION IS ESTABLISHED UNDER CANADIAN LAW WITH A MAJORITY OF CANADIAN SHAREHOLDERS AND CANADIAN MANAGEMENT THEN IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A CANADIAN CORPORATION AND CANADIAN CONTENT SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED; AND (2) INCLUDING REFERENCE TO TV BORDER STATIONS -- HE WISHED TO ELIMINATE ANY REFERENCE IN BILL TO BORDER TV STATIONS UNTIL CANADIAN AND U.S. NEGOTIATORS HAD A CHANCE TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM TO MUTUAL SATISFACTION BEFORE ENACTING

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FURTHER LEGISLATION.

3. IN REBUTTAL LIBERAL SENATOR BUCKWOLD (SASKATCHEWAN) URGED PASSAGE OF BILL AS IT STANDS IF GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE SENATE "UNDERTAKING" TO ENACT INTO LAW THE PRECISE AMOUNT OF CANADIAN CONTENT REQUIRED FOR A PUBLICATION TO BE CONSIDERED "CANADIAN". BUCKWOLD SAID CANADIAN MAGAZINE INDUSTRY WOULD DIE WITHOUT QUICK PASSAGE OF BILL.

4. DEBATE ADJOURNED 9:30 P.M. TUESDAY AND RESUMED AGAIN 2:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, JULY 7. SENATOR PERRAULT, GOVERNMENT LEADER IN SENATE, MOVED THEN THAT BILL "NOT NOW BE ADOPTED" BUT REFERRED BACK TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE FOR FURTHER STUDY AND REPORT EVENING OF JULY 7. MOTION ADOPTED.

5. COMMENT: PERRAULT'S MOVE, WHICH HE SAID WOULD PERMIT ACHIEVING "FINAL RESOLUTION ON REPORT" APPEARS TO BE TACTICAL MANEUVER TO GET COMMITTEE TO AGREE TO "UNDERTAKING" BY GOVERNMENT ON CANADIAN CONTENT. SENATE ANXIOUS TO ADJOURN AND STILL HAS FOUR MAJOR BILLS, INCLUDING C-58, TO COMPLETE EVEN BEFORE RECEIVING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT BILL BEING DEBATED IN COMMONS. APPEARS TO BE CONSENSUS THAT VOTING ON C-58 MAY TAKE PLACE THURSDAY, JULY 9. ALTHOUGH SERIOUS OPPOSITION REMAINS, APPROVAL OF BILL WITHOUT AMENDMENT LIKELY. ENDERS

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